



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Selma, AL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Selma was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in central Alabama, Selma (population 20,512) is a historic city with many structures dating back to the 1800s, and a history spanning from the Civil War to the civil rights movement. The city is a federally designated Renewal Community, and is characterized by low-wage jobs, a lack of affordable housing, blight, and abandoned commercial properties. The unemployment rate is 9.1 percent, 31 percent of residents live below the poverty level, and 70 percent of residents are African-American. Exceptionally high rates of coronary disease and lung, breast, and colon cancers have been reported in the city's African-American population. Brownfields are concentrated in minority neighborhoods and have had a negative impact on the entire city's economy.



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Selma for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to develop a brownfields inventory and perform Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments. Funds also will be used to develop cleanup plans, conduct community outreach, and determine the possible impacts of human exposure to hazardous substances.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team

404-562-8866

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Selma, AL

334-874-2100

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

When brownfields are assessed and eventually cleaned up, they will be returned to productive use with a mix of business and residential development. Brownfields redevelopment will attract investment, spur economic opportunities, create higher-paying jobs, protect human health, and increase affordable housing.